

CLAIMS

1. A docking station for a portable computer, the docking station comprising:
 - a housing; and
 - an electrical interface supported by the housing and configured to electrically couple the docking station and the portable computer,
 - wherein the electrical interface is movable between a first position and a second position angularly displaced from the first position.
2. The docking station of claim 1, wherein the first position includes a substantially horizontal position and the second position includes a non-horizontal position.
3. The docking station of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a front surface and a top surface adjacent the front surface, wherein the electrical interface is oriented substantially perpendicular to the front surface when in the first position and oriented substantially perpendicular to the top surface when in the second position.
4. The docking station of claim 3, wherein the front surface of the housing is substantially vertical and the top surface of the housing is angled relative to the front surface.
5. The docking station of claim 1, wherein the electrical interface of the docking station is configured to mate with a corresponding electrical interface of the portable computer to electrically couple the docking station and the portable computer.
6. The docking station of claim 5, further comprising:

an undocking system adapted to displace the portable computer relative to the housing when the docking station and the portable computer are electrically coupled.

7. The docking station of claim 6, wherein the undocking system includes at least one ejector adapted to project from the housing and contact the portable computer when the docking station and the portable computer are electrically coupled.

8. The docking station of claim 6, wherein the undocking system includes at least one first ejector adapted to project from the housing and contact the portable computer when the docking station and the portable computer are electrically coupled and the electrical interface of the docking station is in the first position, and at least one second ejector adapted to project from the housing and contact the portable computer when the docking station and the portable computer are electrically coupled and the electrical interface of the docking station is in the second position.

9. The docking station of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a first housing portion and a second housing portion supporting the first housing portion, the first housing portion supporting the electrical interface and being movable relative to the second housing portion to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface.

10. The docking station of claim 9, wherein the first housing portion is rotatable relative to the second housing portion to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface.

11. The docking station of claim 9, wherein the electrical interface constitutes a first electrical interface supported by the first housing portion, and further comprising:

a second electrical interface supported by the second housing portion and electrically coupled to the first electrical interface.

12. The docking station of claim 11, wherein the first electrical interface is electrically coupled to the second electrical interface by an electrical circuit.

13. The docking station of claim 12, wherein the electrical circuit includes a flexible wire connector having a first end electrically coupled with the first electrical interface and a second end electrically coupled with the second electrical interface.

14. The docking station of claim 12, wherein the electrical circuit includes a first electrical contact electrically coupled with the first electrical interface and a second electrical contact electrically coupled with the second electrical interface and configured to contact the first electrical contact.

15. The docking station of claim 11, wherein the second electrical interface is configured to electrically couple a peripheral device with the docking station.

16. The docking station of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a first electrical port and a second electrical port angularly displaced from the first electrical port, wherein the electrical interface is selectively positionable in the first electrical port and the second electrical port to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface.

17. The docking station of claim 16, wherein the electrical interface constitutes a first electrical interface supported by the housing, and further comprising:

a second electrical interface supported by the housing and electrically coupled with the first electrical port and the second electrical port.

18. The docking station of claim 17, wherein the second electrical interface is configured to electrically couple a peripheral device with the docking station.

19. A method of docking a portable computer including an electrical interface with a docking station including a housing and an electrical interface supported by the housing, the method comprising:

moving the electrical interface of the docking station between a first position and a second position angularly displaced from the first position; and
electrically coupling the electrical interface of the portable computer with the electrical interface of the docking station.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein moving the electrical interface of the docking station between the first position and the second position includes moving the electrical interface between a substantially horizontal position and a non-horizontal position.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the housing of the docking station includes a front surface and a top surface adjacent the front surface, wherein moving the electrical interface of the docking station between the first position and the second position includes orienting the electrical interface of the docking station substantially perpendicular to the front surface when in the first position and orienting the electrical interface of the docking station substantially perpendicular to the top surface when in the second position.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
undocking the portable computer from the docking station after electrically coupling the electrical interface of the portable computer with the electrical interface of the docking station, including displacing the portable computer relative to the housing of the docking station.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein displacing the portable computer relative to the housing of the docking station includes contacting the portable computer with at least one ejector.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein displacing the portable computer relative to the housing of the docking station includes contacting the portable computer with at least one first ejector when the electrical interface of the docking station is in the first position and contacting the portable computer with at least one second ejector when the electrical interface of the docking station is in the second position.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the housing of the docking station includes a first housing portion supporting the electrical interface of the docking station and a second housing portion supporting the first housing portion, wherein moving the electrical interface of the docking station between the first position and the second position includes moving the first housing portion relative to the second housing portion to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein moving the first housing portion relative to the second housing portion includes rotating the first housing portion relative to the second housing portion to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein the housing of the docking station includes a first electrical port and a second electrical port angularly displaced from the first electrical port, wherein moving the electrical interface of the docking station between the first position and the second position includes selectively positioning the electrical interface of the docking station in the first electrical port and the second electrical port to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface.

28. A computer system, comprising:
- a docking station including a housing and an electrical interface supported by the housing, wherein the electrical interface of the docking station is movable between a first position and a second position angularly displaced from the first position; and
 - a portable computer including an electrical interface configured to mate with the electrical interface of the docking station and electrically couple the portable computer with the docking station.
29. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the first position includes a substantially horizontal position and the second position includes a non-horizontal position.
30. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the docking station further includes an undocking system adapted to displace the portable computer relative to the housing of the docking station when the portable computer is electrically coupled with the docking station.
31. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the housing portion of the docking station includes a first housing portion and a second housing portion supporting the first housing portion, the first housing portion supporting the electrical interface of the docking station and being movable relative to the second housing portion to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface of the docking station.
32. The computer system of claim 31, wherein the first housing portion is rotatable relative to the second housing portion to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface of the docking station.
33. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the housing of the docking station includes a first electrical port and a second electrical port angularly displaced from the first electrical port, wherein the electrical interface of the

docking station is selectively positionable in the first electrical port and the second electrical port to establish the first position and the second position of the electrical interface of the docking station.

34. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the electrical interface of the portable computer is provided on a side of the portable computer, wherein the electrical interface of the portable computer is configured to mate with the electrical interface of the docking station when the electrical interface of the docking station is in the first position.

35. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the electrical interface of the portable computer is provided on a bottom of the portable computer, wherein the electrical interface of the portable computer is configured to mate with the electrical interface of the docking station when the electrical interface of the docking station is in the second position.